

Access to the Canadian Market: Québec and Interprovincial Mobility



Canada is described as a single market, but in practice, interprovincial trade barriers have long hindered the free flow of goods, services and labour within the country. The barriers are not tariff related but instead regulatory and administrative in nature, arising from differing standards and certification requirements, sector-specific exceptions, additional permitting and licensing procedures, and limited recognition of professional qualifications.

Since spring 2025, major reforms have been undertaken to reduce these barriers. The federal government and several provinces, including Québec, have taken concrete steps **to improve market access, harmonize standards and recognize professional qualifications.** Although some restrictions remain, there is a shift toward harmonizing and simplifying the process.

These changes create a more streamlined and predictable environment for businesses looking to grow outside of their province or country of origin.

A Pan-Canadian Trend Is Gathering Momentum

At the federal level, two key measures were adopted in 2025:

- **Bill C-5 (the One Canadian Economy Act)**, which received Royal Assent on June 26, 2025, aims to remove federal barriers to interprovincial trade and expedite national interest projects by streamlining federal review and approval processes.
- **The elimination of the 53 federal exceptions to the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA)**, announced on June 30, 2025, will remove all federal restrictions under the CFTA, primarily in the areas of government procurement, transportation services, land use, marine transportation and certain strategic projects.

In tandem with that Bill, most of the provinces and territories, together with the federal government, signed the **Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on the Sale of Goods (CMRA)** on November 19, 2025, establishing a pan-Canadian framework for the sale of goods. The agreement should be implemented in all jurisdictions by June 30, 2026.

The provinces and territories have also committed to reviewing their exemptions under the CFTA. Québec has already removed five exemptions related to the horse racing, marine transport, real estate, funeral services and explosives sectors. Seven other exemptions are currently under review.

Bill 112: A Turning Point for Québec

On October 30, 2025, the Québec government enacted the **Act to facilitate the trade in goods and the mobility of labour from the other provinces and the territories of Canada (Bill 112)**. Designed to facilitate access to the Québec market and enhance interprovincial movement, this reform is grounded in two key principles.

➤ Product recognition:

“[A]ny good [...] manufactured, prepared, cultivated, raised or sold for commercial purposes in another province or a territory of Canada [...] may be commercialized in Québec”¹ without any further requirements, unless specified by regulation.

A public list of exceptions will be published to ensure transparency, but its release date has not yet been announced.

➤ Professional mobility:

The principle of “permit on permit” (aka “license-to-license”) recognition applies: a person authorized to practise a profession or trade in another province will be able to obtain recognition in Québec without any significant requirements for training, experience or examinations, unless a skills gap is shown to exist or for reasons of public protection.

Bill 5: Fast Track for Major Projects in Québec

Tabled on December 9, 2025, Bill 5 aims to accelerate the approval of strategic projects are considered a priority for the Québec economy, particularly in the energy transition, infrastructure and innovative technology sectors. The bill provides for the establishment of streamlined approval mechanisms, enhanced coordination among relevant ministries, and legally binding timelines for processing applications.

¹ [C-30.1 - Act to facilitate the trade of goods and the mobility of labour from the other provinces and the territories of Canada](#)

Implications for Businesses

These reforms represent a strategic opportunity for businesses:

- › Easier access to the Canadian and Québec markets through the recognition of products and professional qualifications
- › Reduced compliance costs, especially in relation to certification or administrative requirements
- › Increased labour mobility, enabling qualified teams to work across the country
- › Diversified supply chains by integrating Québec as a more accessible trading partner

As provinces continue to harmonize their efforts, it is essential for businesses to monitor the evolving regulatory landscape, identify opportunities for interprovincial growth, and ensure that their products, services and certifications are compliant with the requirements of target jurisdictions.



[Our team at Fasken](#) can assist you with these steps by helping you understand provincial and federal regulatory frameworks, optimize your compliance, and secure your interprovincial expansion.